

Applicants: Donald W. Landry and Shi-Xian Deng
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Filed: Herewith
Page 8

Remarks

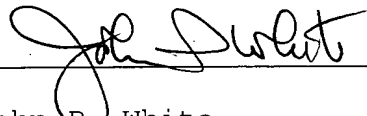
By this Preliminary Amendment, applicants have amended the specification to recite the continuing data for the above-identified application. In addition, applicants have inserted an Abstract of the Disclosure attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. Applicants maintain that this amendment to the specification raises no issue of new matter and respectfully request that this Preliminary Amendment be entered.

Claims 1-38 are present in the application as filed. By this Preliminary Amendment, applicants have canceled claims 15, 20, 22-27, 29, 32, 33, 37, and 38 without disclaimer or prejudice and have amended claims 2-7, 9, 28, and 30 to eliminate multiple claim dependencies and to make minor conforming amendments. Accordingly, upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-14, 16-19, 21, 28, 30, 31, and 34-36 will be pending.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

No fee, other than the enclosed filing fee of \$1,250.00, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. If any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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